



Drugs and Crime Facts

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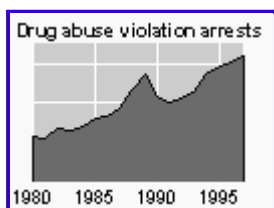
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Drugs & Crime Facts

This site summarizes U.S. statistics about drug-related crimes, law enforcement, courts, and corrections from Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) and non-BJS sources (See [Drug data produced by BJS](#) below). It updates the information published in *Drugs and Crime Facts, 1994*, (NCJ 154043) and will be revised as new information becomes available. The data provide policymakers, criminal justice practitioners, researchers, and the general public with online access to understandable information on various drug law violations and drug-related law enforcement.

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Bibliography

To ease printing, a [consolidated version](#) in Adobe Acrobat format (411K) of all of the web pages in *Drugs & Crime Facts* is available for downloading.

Drug data produced by BJS

Most of the information presented here is collected from BJS reports and from other statistical agencies. Some of the data have changed since the 1994 edition, and other information was deleted because of its age.

The primary sources of information include --

- The [National Crime Victimization Survey](#) (NCVS) which asks victims of personal crimes if they believed the offenders had been using drugs
- The [Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics](#) (LEMAS) program which produces information on drug-related programs of State and local police agencies
- [Correctional programs](#) which provide data on Federal and State prisoners, jail inmates, and incarcerated youth, including data on their histories of drug use and drug offenses
- The [Federal Justice Statistics Program](#) which collects and publishes detailed data on drug law violators in the Federal justice system

- The ***Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*** which presents data on drug use in the general population, on public opinion toward drugs and enforcement of drug laws, and administrative law enforcement data from agencies such as the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

This publication also highlights other drug data sources frequently used by the **Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse** in responding to requests.

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Drug use and crime

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At the time of the offense

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Drug-related crime

Overall, 16% of convicted jail inmates said they had committed their offense to get money for drugs. Of convicted property and drug offenders, about 1 in 4 had committed their crimes to get money for drugs. A higher percentage of drug offenders in 1996 (24%) than in 1989 (14%) were in jail for a crime committed to raise money for drugs.

Offense	Percent of jail inmates who committed offense to get money for drugs	
	1996	1989
Total	15.8 %	13.3 %
Violent	8.8	11.5
Property	25.6	24.4
Drugs	23.5	14.0
Public-order	4.2	3.3

Source: BJS, [Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996](#), NCJ 164620, April 1998.

In 1997 19% of State prisoners, and 16% of Federal inmates said they committed their current offense to obtain money for drugs. These percentages represent a slight increase from 1991, when 17% of State and 10% of Federal prisoners identified drug money as a motive for their current offense.

Source: BJS, [Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997](#), NCJ 172871, January 1999.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program (UCR) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reported that in 1997, 5.1% of the 15,289 homicides in which circumstances were known were narcotics related. Those murders that occurred specifically during a narcotics felony, such as drug trafficking or manufacturing, are considered drug related.

Drug-related homicides

Year	Number of homicides	Percent drug related
1986	19,257	3.9%
1987	17,963	4.9
1988	17,971	5.6
1989	18,954	7.4
1990	20,273	6.7
1991	21,676	6.2
1992	22,716	5.7
1993	23,180	5.5
1994	22,084	5.6
1995	20,232	5.0
1996	15,848	4.9
1997	15,289	5.1

Note: Includes only those homicides where circumstances were known.

Source: Table constructed by ONDCP Drug Policy Information Clearinghouse staff from FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

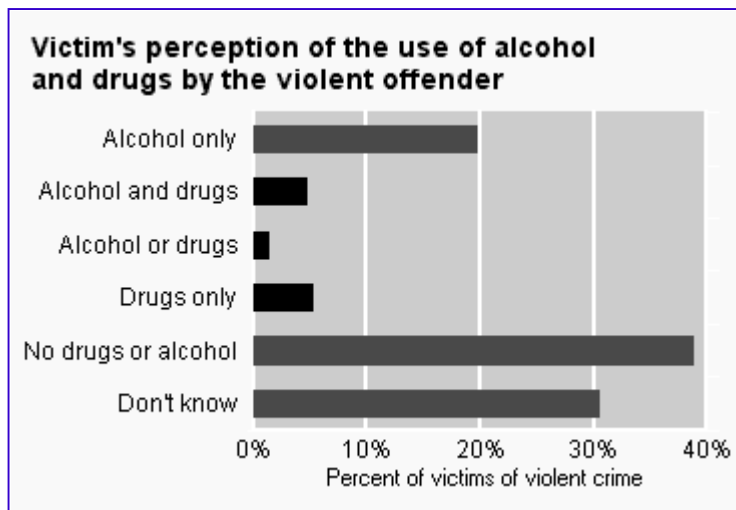
Offenders under the influence at the time of the offense

- **Victim's perception**
 - **American Indian victims**
- **Perspectives of jail inmates and State probationers and prisoners**

Victim's perception

On average each year from 1992 to 1995, according to the National Crime Victimization Survey, there were 11.1 million violent victimizations of residents age 12 or older. Victims of violence were asked to describe whether they perceived the offender to have been drinking or using drugs.

- About 16% of the victims of violence reported that the offender was using drugs, alone or in combination with alcohol.
- Based on victim perceptions, about 2.7 million violent crimes occurred each year in which victims were certain that the offender had been drinking. For about 1 in 5 of these violent victimizations involving alcohol use by the offender, victims believed the offender was also using drugs at the time of the offense.



Click on the chart to view the data.

Victims' perception of the use of alcohol or drugs by violent offenders, by victim-offender relationship, 1995

		Offender using:			
Victim-offender relationship	Total	Alcohol	Drugs or alcohol	Neither drugs nor alcohol	
All victim of violence	100%	28%	7%	9%	56%
Intimate*	100	55	9	12	25
Nonmarital relative	100	38	14	12	36
Acquaintance	100	28	9	10	52
Stranger	100	24	6	7	63

Note: Excludes "don't know" from calculations.

*Includes current or former spouse, boyfriend, and girlfriend.

Source: BJS, National Crime Victimization Survey as reported in *Alcohol and Crime*, NCJ 168632, April 1998.

American Indian victims

Alcohol and drug use was a factor in more than half of violent crimes against American Indians.

Substantial differences can be found by race in the reports of victims of violence of their perceptions of drug and alcohol use by offenders. Among those who could describe alcohol or drug use by offenders, American Indian victims of violence were the most likely to report such perceived use by the offender.

Overall, in 55% of American Indian violent victimizations, the victim said the offender was under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or both. The offender's use of alcohol and/or drugs was somewhat less likely in violent crimes committed against whites (44%) or blacks (35%).

Violent crime, by the perceived drug or alcohol use of the offender and by race of victim, 1992-96

Race of victim	Total	Perceived drug or alcohol use by offender			
		Alcohol	Drugs	Both	Neither
Total	100 %	28 %	8 %	7 %	57 %
American Indian	100	38	9	8	45
White	100	29	8	7	56
Black	100	21	7	7	65
Asian	100	20	3	2	75

Note: Table excludes those respondents who were unable to report whether or not they perceived the offender to have been using drugs or alcohol.

Source: BJS, *American Indians and Crime*, NCJ 173386, February 1999.

Perspectives of jail inmates and State probationers and prisoners

- **Probationers**
- **Prisoners**
- **Jail inmates**

Probationers

The first national survey of adults on probation, conducted in 1995, reported that 14% of probationers were on drugs when they committed their offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Among probationers, 49% of the mentally ill and 46% of others reported alcohol or drug use at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Prisoners

In the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 33% of State prisoners and 22% of Federal prisoners said they had committed their current offense while under the influence of drugs. Drug offenders (42%) and property offenders (37%) reported the highest incidence of drug use at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

About 60% of mentally ill and 51% of other inmates in State prison were under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of their current offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Abused State inmates were more likely than those reporting no abuse to have been using illegal drugs at the time of their offense. This pattern occurred especially among female inmates. Forty-six percent of the abused women committed their current offense under the influence of illegal drugs. Among women who were not abused, 32% committed their offense while on drugs.

Source: BJS, *Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 172879, April

1999.

Jail inmates

Thirty-six percent of convicted jail inmates said they were using drugs at the time of their offense in 1996, compared to 27% in 1989. Almost 2 in 10 were using marijuana in 1996, compared to 1 in 10 in 1989. Approximately 6% in 1996 and 2% in 1989 were using amphetamine or other stimulants. In both 1996 and 1989 about 15% were on cocaine or crack at the time of the offense.

Those jail inmates convicted of drug trafficking (60%), drug possession (57%), fraud (45%), or robbery (44%) were most likely to have reported to be using drugs at the time of the offense.

Source: BJS, ***Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996***, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

According the *Surveys of Inmates in State Correctional Facilities, 1991*, and *Inmates in local Jails, 1996*, more than half of prison and jail inmates with an intimate victim had been drinking or using drugs when they committed the violent crime.

Source: BJS, ***Violence by Intimates***, NCJ 167237, March 1998.

Sixty-five percent of mentally ill jail inmates and 57% of other jail inmates were under the influence of both alcohol and drug use at the time of the offense. These percentages were the highest compared to State inmates and probationers.

Source: BJS, ***Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers***, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

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Drug use at arrest

In 1998 the Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM) program conducted interviews and drug tests with more than 30,000 recent arrestees in 35 metropolitan areas. A total of 20,716 adult males, 6,700 adult females, 3,134 juvenile males, and 389 juvenile females participated in the program during 1998. Twelve of the 35 sites (Albuquerque, Anchorage, Des Moines, Laredo, Las Vegas, Minneapolis, Oklahoma City, Sacramento, Salt Lake City, Seattle, Spokane, and Tucson) were added during 1998.

In most sites, about two-thirds of the adult arrestees and more than half of the juvenile arrestees tested positive for at least one drug. Among adult males, marijuana was the drug most frequently detected in 23 of the 35 sites. Cocaine was the drug most likely to be detected in the remaining 12 sites. Among females, cocaine was the drug most frequently detected in 29 of 32 sites. Methamphetamine was the most frequently detected drug in the three remaining sites for females.

Juveniles

Drug test positive rates for juveniles were essentially stable in 1998 compared to 1997 across all sites.

Juvenile arrestees that are in school are less likely to test positive for drugs than juveniles not in school. This is particularly the case for the harder drugs of cocaine and methamphetamine, although it also holds for marijuana. In Los Angeles, for example, 23% of the boys not currently attending school tested positive for cocaine, compared to 13% of the boys currently attending school; nearly 10% of the boys not in school tested positive for methamphetamine, compared to 3% of the boys in school.

In 1998 among juveniles, marijuana was far and away the most frequently detected drug in sites collecting juvenile data. Ranging from a low of 47% in Indianapolis to a high of 64% in Phoenix, on average more than half of the juvenile males tested positive for marijuana. By contrast, anywhere from 4% (Portland) to 15% (Los Angeles) tested positive for cocaine.

Marijuana

In 1998 the percentage of adult male respondents testing positive for marijuana use in the ADAM program ranged from a high of 53.1 percent in Oklahoma City to a low of 24.8 percent in San Jose. For the 32 sites that collected data on female arrestees during 1998, the proportion of arrestees testing positive for marijuana ranged from 37.9 percent in Seattle to 13.3 percent in Laredo. Within any given site, men were generally more likely than women to test positive for marijuana in 1998. In addition, young adults (15-20 and 21-25 years of age), whether male or female, were the most likely to be involved with marijuana.

A comparison between 1997 and 1998 results in the 23 sites for which trend data are available indicates that marijuana-positive percentages varied across sites.

- Among all adult male arrestees, the median site rate of marijuana positives changed minimally, from 38.4 percent to 38.7 percent between 1997 and 1998.
- For females, the site median remained essentially the same in 1997 (23.8) and 1998 (23.7).
- The most notable percentage point decreases for marijuana positives among adult males were in Atlanta (-10.1), Cleveland (-9.4), Chicago (-6.9), and Omaha (-5.6). For females, the greatest percentage point decreases were in Birmingham (-7.8), Detroit (-6.9), and Omaha (-5.1).
- The largest percentage point increases for males were in Houston (+12.2), San Antonio (+6.8), and New York City (+6.3). For females, the largest percentage point increases in marijuana positives were in New Orleans (+10.5) and Washington, D.C. (+9.2).

Source: **1998 Annual Report on Marijuana Use Among Arrestee, Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring (ADAM)**, under the National Institute of Justice, 1998, NCJ 175658, April 1999.

Cocaine

In 1998, the percentage of adult male respondents who tested positive for recent (past 72 hours) cocaine use in the ADAM program ranged from a high of 51.3 percent in Atlanta to a low of 8.0 percent in San Jose. For the 32 sites that collected data on female arrestees during 1998, cocaine-positive rates ranged from 67.0 percent in New York City to 9.5 percent in San Jose. Generally, older adults (31 and older), whether male or female, are the most likely to use cocaine. Among male cocaine users, recent crack use is self-reported almost twice as frequently as recent powder use. Among female cocaine users, crack use is typically self-reported more than four times as frequently as powder cocaine use.

A comparison between 1997 and 1998 results in the 23 sites for which trend data are available indicates that cocaine-positive percentages declined in the majority of sites.

- Among all adult male arrestees, the median site rate of cocaine positives decreased from 37.1 percent in 1997 and to 35.8 percent in 1998.
- For females, the site median decreased 4.5 percentage points, from 45.0 percent in 1997 to 40.5 percent in 1998.
- The most notable percentage point decreases for cocaine-positives among adult males were witnessed in New York City (10.5), Portland (7.9), and St. Louis (5.9); and for females, the greatest decreases were in St. Louis (9.1), Portland (8.4), and San Jose (6.0).
- The largest percentage point increases for males were in Philadelphia (10.4), Cleveland (10.1), and Detroit (5.7). For females, the largest percentage point increases in cocaine-positives were in Omaha (18.4), Houston (7.9), and Birmingham (7.6).

Source: **1998 Annual Report on Cocaine Use Among Arrestees, Arrestees Drug Abuse Monitoring Program (ADAM)**, under the National Institute of Justice, 1998, NCJ 175657, April 1999.

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Prior drug use by offenders

[Probationers](#) | [Jail inmates](#) | [State and Federal prison inmates](#)

Probationers

In 1995 the first national survey of adults on probation reported --

- nearly 70% of probationers reported past drug use
- 32% said they were using illegal drugs in the month before their offense.

Marijuana (10%) was the most commonly used drug among probationers at the time of the offense.

Prior drug use of adults on probation at the time of offense, by type of drugs, 1995

Type of drug	Percent of adults on probation who were under the influence of drugs at the time of offense
Any drug	14%
Marijuana/hashish	10
Cocaine/crack	4
Heroin and other opiates	1
Barbiturates	1
Stimulants	2
Hallucinogens	1

Note: Excludes 11,712 probationers for whom information on drug use was not provided.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

In 1995 adults on probation in the age categories under 45 (87% of all probationers) reported similar levels of prior drug abuse, and their incidence of drug use was consistently higher than that of older probationers. Over 70% of probationers under 45 reported some prior drug use, compared to 37% of those 45 or older. Thirty-five percent of probationers under 45 -- but 9% of older probationers -- reported drug use in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Two-thirds of DWI offenders on probation reported using drugs in the past. Among DWI probationers, marijuana (65%) and stimulants (29%) were the most commonly used drugs. Seventeen percent of those on probation reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Prior drug use reported by probationers

Level of prior drug use	Percent of probationers	
	DWI offenders	Other offenders
Ever used drugs/a	67.9 %	69.9 %
Marijuana/hashish	64.6	67.2
Cocaine/crack	28.1	31.7
Heroin/opiates	5.7	8.8
Depressants/b	14.6	15.6
Stimulants/c	28.5	24.4
Hallucinogens/d	19.9	19.6
Ever used drugs regularly/e	55.6 %	64.2 %
Used drugs in month before arrest	16.6 %	35.7 %
Used drugs at time of arrest	3.3 %	16.1 %

a/ Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

b/ Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaalude.

c/ Includes amphetamine and methamphetamine.

d/ Includes LSD and PCP.

e/ Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Among DWI offenders, the most commonly reported experience associated with drug use was domestic disputes:

- 19% of probationers said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- About 1 in 10 of those on probation for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- 3% on probation had lost a job because of their drug use.
- 8% of those on probation said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of drugs.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Nearly 40% of mentally ill probationers and 30% of other probationers reported using drugs in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Jail inmates

Of those inmates held in local jails, only convicted offenders were asked if they had used drugs in the time leading up to their current offense. In 1996, 55% of convicted jail inmates reported they had used illegal drugs during the month before their offense, up from 44% in 1989. Use of marijuana in the month before the offense increased from 28% to 37% and of stimulants from 5% to 10%. Reported cocaine or crack use was stable at about 24%.

Half of inmates in both 1989 and 1996 reported trying cocaine. Overall, 82% of all jail inmates in 1996

said they had ever used an illegal drug, up from 78% in 1989. A higher percentage of jail inmates in 1996 than in 1989 reported ever using for every other type of drug:

- marijuana rose from 71% to 78%;
- stimulants (amphetamine and methamphetamine) from 22% to 34%;
- hallucinogens, including LSD and PCP, from 24% to 32%;
- depressants, including Quaalude, barbiturates, and tranquilizers without a doctor's prescription, from 21% to 30%; and
- heroin or other opiates from 19% to 24%.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Prior drug use of jail inmates, by type of drug, 1996 and 1989

Type of drug	Ever used drugs		Ever used drugs regularly/a		Used drugs in the month before the offense		Used drugs at the time of the offense	
	1996	1989	1996	1989	1996	1989	1996	1989
Any drug/b	82.4 %	77.7%	64.2 %	58.0 %	55.0 %	43.8 %	35.6 %	27.0 %
Marijuana	78.2	70.7	54.9	47.8	36.8	28.0	18.5	9.0
Cocaine or crack	50.4	50.4	31.0	30.7	24.1	23.5	15.2	13.7
Heroin or opiates	23.9	18.6	11.8	11.8	8.8	7.2	5.6	4.9
Depressants/c	29.9	21.1	10.4	9.0	5.9	3.9	2.4	1.2
Stimulants/d	33.6	22.1	16.5	12.1	10.4	5.4	6.1	2.2
Hallucinogens/e	32.2	23.7	10.5	9.4	4.6	3.2	1.6	1.6
Inhalants	16.8	--	4.8	--	1.0	--	0.3	--

Note: Detail add to more than total because inmates may have used more than one drug.

--Not reported.

a/ Used drugs at least once week for a month.

b/ Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

c/ Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaalude.

d/ Includes amphetamine and methamphetamine.

e/ Includes LSD and PCP.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Over three-quarters of DWI offenders in jail reported using drugs in the past. Among jail inmates held for DWI , marijuana (73%) and cocaine-based drugs including crack (41%) were the most commonly used drugs. Thirty percent of those in jail reported drug use in the month prior to arrest.

Prior drug use reported by jail inmates

Level of prior drug use	Percent of jail inmates	
	DWI offenders	Other offenders
Ever used drugs/a	76.5 %	83.2 %
Marijuana/hashish	72.7	78.9
Cocaine/crack	40.6	51.4
Heroin/opiates	18.9	24.5
Depressants/b	27.6	30.2
Stimulants/c	35.5	33.7
Hallucinogens/d	33.2	32.2
Ever used drugs regularly/e	47.6 %	65.9 %
Used drugs in month before arrest	30.2 %	51.2 %
Used drugs at time of arrest	9.5 %	34.1 %

a/ Other unspecified drugs are included in the totals.

b/ Includes barbiturates, tranquilizers, and Quaalude.

c/ Includes amphetamine and methamphetamine.

d/ Includes LSD and PCP.

e/ Used drugs at least once a week for at least a month.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Domestic disputes were also one of the most commonly reported experiences associated with drug use:

- 25% of jail inmates said they had arguments with their family, friends, spouse, or boyfriend/girlfriend while under the influence of drugs.
- Nearly 1 in 5 of those in jail for DWI had been arrested or held in a police station as a result of their drug use.
- About 10% of DWI offenders in jail had lost a job because of their drug use.
- About 15% of those in jail said they had been in a physical fight while under the influence of drugs.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Fifty-eight percent of mentally ill jail inmates and 47% of other jail inmates were using drugs in the month before the offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

State and Federal prison inmates

In the 1997 Survey of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities, over 570,000 of the Nation's prisoners (51%) reported the use of alcohol or drugs while committing their offense.

In 1991, 60% of Federal prisoners reported prior drug use, compared to 79% of State prisoners. In 1997 this gap in prior drug use was narrowed, as the percentage of Federal inmates reporting past drug use rose to 73%, compared to 83% of State inmates. This increase was mostly due to a rise in the

percentage of Federal prisoners reporting prior use of marijuana (from 53% in 1991 to 65% in 1997) and cocaine-based drugs (from 37% in 1991 to 45% in 1997).

Most other drug types showed modest increases over this period. A fifth of Federal prisoners had used stimulants and hallucinogens, followed by depressants and opiates, including heroin (both 16%). About 1 in 12 Federal prisoners reported the prior use of inhalants.

Although the proportion of Federal prisoners held for drug offenses rose from 58% in 1991 to 63% in 1997, the percentage of all Federal inmates who reported using drugs in the month before the offense rose more dramatically from 32% to 45%.

The proportion of State prison inmates reporting the past use of cocaine or crack remained stable between 1991 and 1997 --

- Marijuana (77%) use had increased slightly since 1991 (74%), and remained the most commonly used drug.
- Past use of cocaine-based drugs remained unchanged at 49% since 1991.
- Twenty percent of all inmates reported the past use of intravenous drugs, down from 25% in 1991.

**Drug use by State prisoners,
1997 and 1991**

Type of drug	Percent of inmates who had ever used drugs	
	1997	1991
Any drug	83%	79%
Marijuana	77	74
Cocaine/crack	49	49
Heroin/opiates	24	25
Depressants	24	24
Stimulants	28	30
Hallucinogens	29	27

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

Nineteen percent of State inmates told interviewers that they had been physically or sexually abused before their current offense. For State prisoners reporting prior abuse, 89% had ever used illegal drugs: 76% of the men and 80% of the women had used them regularly. Of those not reporting prior abuse, 82% had used illegal drugs: 68% of the men and 65% of the women had used them regularly.

Illegal drug use was more common among abused State prison inmates than among those who said they were not abused. An estimated 76% of abused men and 80% of abused women had used illegal drugs regularly, compared to 68% of men and 65% of women who had not been abused.

**Current and past violent offenses and past drug use,
by whether abused before admission to State prison, 1997**

Offense history and drug use	Percent of State prison inmates					
	<u>Reported being abused</u>			<u>Reported being not abused</u>		
	Total	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females
Current or past violent offense	70.4 %	76.5 %	45.0 %	60.2 %	61.2 %	29.1 %
Used an illegal drug						
Ever	88.6 %	88.5 %	88.9 %	81.8 %	81.9 %	77.4 %
Ever regularly	76.3	75.5	79.7	67.9	67.9	65.0
In month before offense	61.4	59.7	68.6	55.3	55.3	54.0
At time of offense	39.6	38.0	46.2	30.7	30.7	32.0

Source: BJS, *Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 172879, April 1999.

Source: BJS, *Prior Abuse Reported by Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 172879, April 1999.

About 60% of mentally ill State prisoners and 56% of other inmates were using drugs in the month before their offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment and Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

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Enforcement

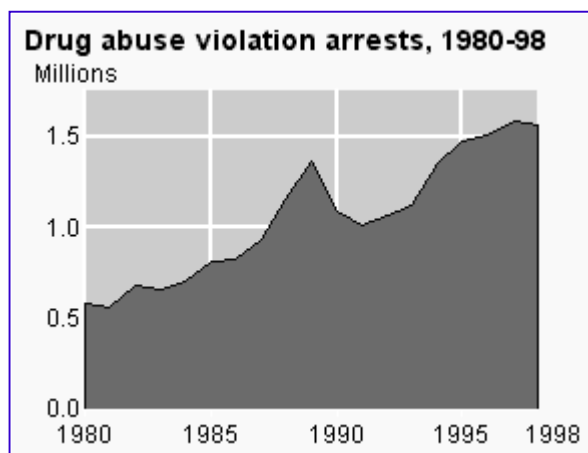
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Arrests and seizures

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Arrests

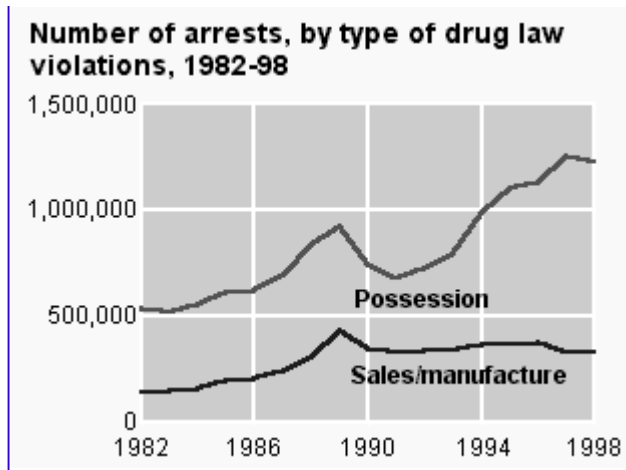
Federal, State, and local agencies share responsibility for enforcing the Nation's drug laws, although most arrests are made by State and local authorities. In 1998 the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) estimated that there were 1,559,100 State and local arrests for drug abuse violations in the United States.



[Click on the chart to view the data.](#)

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

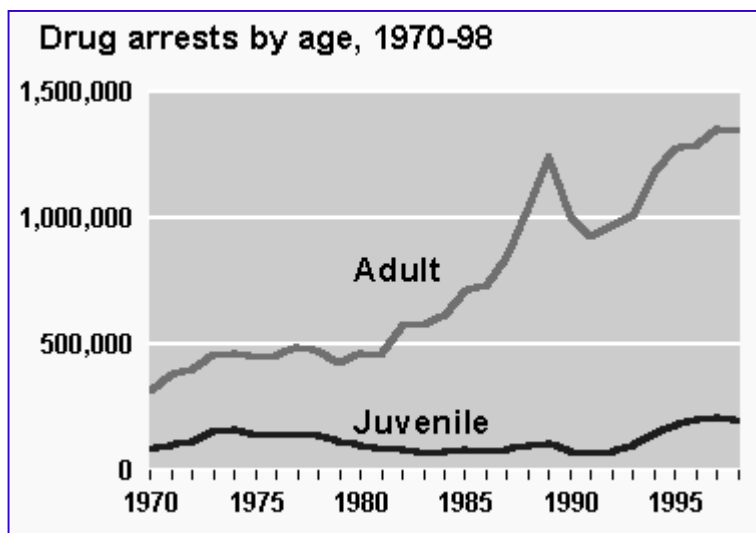
According to the UCR, drug abuse violations are defined as State and/or local offenses relating to the unlawful possession, sale, use, growing, manufacturing, and making of narcotic drugs including opium or cocaine and their derivatives, marijuana, synthetic narcotics, and dangerous nonnarcotic drugs such as barbiturates. More than three quarters of drug law violation arrests are for possession violations.



[Click on the chart to view the data.](#)

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

The number of arrests for drug abuse violations remained relatively constant from 1997 to 1998 for both adults and juveniles. Juveniles are defined as persons under 18 years of age. Adults are defined as persons 18 years old or older. In 1987 drug arrests were 7.4% of the total of all arrests reported to the FBI; by 1998, drug arrests had risen to 10.7% of all arrests.



[Click on the chart to view the data.](#)

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

In 1998, according to the UCR, law enforcement agencies nationwide made an estimated 14.5 million arrests for all criminal infractions except traffic violations. Among the specific categories, the highest arrest counts were for drug abuse violations, 1.6 million arrests; for driving under the influence, approximately 1.4 million arrests; and for larceny-thefts and simple assaults, 1.3 million arrests each. Drug abuse violations in 1998 accounted for an estimated 30% of the overall arrests.

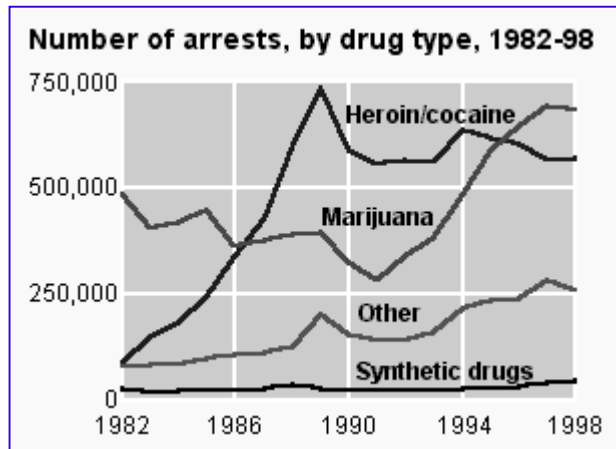
Estimated totals of top 7 arrest offenses, United States, 1998

Type of arrest	Number of arrests*
Total arrests*	14,528,300
Drug abuse violations	1,559,100
Driving under the influence	1,402,800
Simple assaults	1,338,800
Larceny/theft	1,307,100
Drunkenness	710,300
Disorderly conduct	696,100
Liquor laws	630,400

*Arrest totals are based on all reporting agencies and estimates for unreported areas.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

From 1987 to 1998 more drug arrests involved heroin or cocaine than other types of drugs. In 1998 the number of arrests involving marijuana exceeded that for other types of drugs.



Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

The total number of arrests for drug violations remained relatively unchanged from 1997 to 1998. From 1997 to 1998 the types of drugs involved in drug arrests by geographic region remained relatively stable.

Arrests for drug abuse violations, by geographic region, 1998

Type of violations	Percent of arrests for drug abuse violations				
	U. S. total	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Total*	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %	100.0 %
Sale/manufacture*	21.2 %	26.9 %	27.6 %	19.0 %	18.3 %
Heroin or cocaine	11.0	19.8	6.4	11.1	7.9
Marijuana	5.4	5.6	8.3	5.1	4.7
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	1.0	0.7	0.7	1.7	0.6
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	3.8	0.9	12.2	1.2	5.0
Possession*	78.8 %	73.1 %	72.4 %	81.0 %	81.7 %
Heroin or cocaine	25.6	29.2	14.0	24.7	28.6
Marijuana	38.4	38.9	45.3	48.6	25.6
Synthetic or manufactured drugs	1.9	1.4	1.5	2.4	1.7
Other dangerous nonnarcotic drugs	12.9	3.6	11.5	5.3	25.7

*Because of rounding, percentages may not add to total.

Source: FBI, Uniform Crime Reports, *Crime in the United States*, annually.

Drug seizures

Many Federal agencies are involved in removal of illicit drugs from the market. The Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS) reflects the combined drug seizure efforts of the DEA, FBI, U.S. Customs Service, and U.S. Border Patrol within the jurisdiction of the United States, as well as maritime seizures by the U.S. Coast Guard. FDSS eliminates duplicate reporting of a seizure involving more than one Federal agency.

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, as reported in *Fact sheet: Drug Data Summary*, NCJ 172873, April 1999.

Drug seizures, as reported in the Federal-wide Drug Seizure System for fiscal year 1995 through 1998.

Drug	Seizures in pounds			
	FY 1995	FY 1996	FY 1997	FY 1998
Total	1,576,865	1,718,552	1,796,649	2,031,544
Heroin	2,569	3,373	3,115	3,485
Cocaine	234,105	253,297	253,531	264,630
Marijuana	1,308,171	1,429,786	1,486,952	1,762,834
Hashish	32,020	32,096	53,051	596

Note: Table constructed by staff of the Drug Enforcement Administration, Federal-wide Drug Seizure System (FDSS), *Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, 1998.

As reported in the **1998 BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics** --

- the Federal Government seized 10,916 illegal drug laboratories between fiscal years 1975 and 1998
- in fiscal year 1998, of the 1,651 labs seized, 1,627 (99%) manufactured methamphetamines
- in 1998 the Drug Enforcement Administration's (DEA) program for eradicating domestic

marijuana resulted in the destruction of 135 million plants in 55,229 plots, 13,603 arrests, 8,725 weapons seized, and assets seized valued at \$29.3 million.

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Law enforcement operations

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Federal agencies

As of June 1998 Federal agencies employed about 83,000 full-time personnel authorized to make arrests and carry firearms, according to data provided by agencies in responses to a Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). Compared with data reported by agencies for June 1996, employment of such personnel in 1998 was up about 8,000, or 11%.

The DEA employed 3,305 officers with the authority to make arrests and carry firearms. These DEA agents primarily investigate major narcotics violators, enforce regulations governing the manufacture and dispensing of controlled substances, and perform various other functions in support of drug trafficking prevention and control.

The FBI employed 11,285 full-time personnel with arrest and firearms authorities. These agents investigate more than 250 types of Federal crimes. The FBI has concurrent jurisdiction with the DEA over drug offenses under the Controlled Substances Act.

Source: BJS, [Federal Law Enforcement Officers, 1998](#), NCJ 177607, February 2000.

State agencies

Among those State agencies with 100 or more officers, 65% operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 1997.

Local agencies

Of those local agencies with 100 or more officers, a large percentage operated a full-time drug enforcement unit in 1997.

Special drug unit operation participation of agencies with primary drug enforcement responsibility:

Type of agency	Agencies with 100 or more officers
County police	93%
Municipal police departments	82
Sheriffs' departments	69

In 1997 many larger local law enforcement agencies operated special units with personnel assigned full-time to address specific community problems. Eighty percent of local agencies had a full-time unit for drug education in schools.

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681, April 1999.

In 1997 about 7 in 8 local police departments had primary responsibility for the enforcement of drug laws in their jurisdiction. More than 90% of the departments in each population category of 10,000 or more had drug enforcement responsibilities, including all of those serving a population of 250,000 or more. Departments with drug enforcement responsibilities employed 97% of all local police officers.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 an estimated 87% of all sheriffs' departments had primary responsibility for drug enforcement in their jurisdiction. More than 90% of departments in jurisdictions with a population of less than 25,000 were responsible for drug enforcement, compared to 59% of those in jurisdictions with 500,000 to 999,999 residents.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

**Drug enforcement responsibilities of
local police and sheriffs' departments,
by size of population served, 1997**

Type of agency and population served	Percent of agencies with primary responsibility
Local police departments	
All sizes	88%
1,000,000 or more	100%
500,000-999,999	100
250,000-499,999	100
100,000-249,999	99
50,000-99,999	99
25,000-49,999	95
10,000-24,999	93
2,500-9,999	90
Under 2,500	82
Sheriffs' departments	
All sizes	87%
1,000,000 or more	79%
500,000-999,999	59
250,000-499,999	78
100,000-249,999	79
50,000-99,999	79
25,000-49,999	88
10,000-24,999	92
Under 10,000	93

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000 and *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

Multiagency task force

About three-fourths of county police (77%), municipal police (76%), and sheriffs' departments (75%) participated in a multi-agency drug enforcement task force during 1997, as did about half of the State police agencies.

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681,

April 1999.

In 1997 about a third of local police departments had one or more officers assigned to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. About two-thirds of all local police officers worked for a department that assigned officers to a task force. About 6,200 officers were assigned full time, and another 3,200 on a part-time basis.

The number of officers assigned full time ranged from 27 in departments serving a population of 1 million or more to about 2 in those serving fewer than 50,000 residents.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 half of sheriffs' departments, employing two-thirds of all officers, assigned 1 or more officers to a multiagency drug enforcement task force. About 2,900 officers were assigned full time, and 1,100 on a part-time basis. The number of full-time task force officers ranged from 10 in departments serving 1 million or more residents to 1 in those serving fewer than 10,000 residents.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

Multiagency drug enforcement task force participation of local police and sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997

		Multiagency drug enforcement task force		
		Percent of agencies participating	Number of officers assigned full time	
Population served			Total	Average*
Local police departments				
	All sizes	31%	6,205	2
1,000,000 or more		94%	412	27
500,000-999,999		88	308	15
250,000-499,999		83	345	9
100,000-249,999		82	554	4
50,000-99,999		74	708	3
25,000-49,999		65	699	2
10,000-24,999		50	1,122	2
2,500-9,999		34	1,305	1
Under 2,500		15	750	2
Sheriffs' departments				
	All sizes	50%	2,886	2
1,000,000 or more		61%	190	10
500,000-999,999		68	264	7
250,000-499,999		63	254	4
100,000-249,999		76	496	2
50,000-99,999		67	494	2
25,000-49,999		55	515	2
10,000-24,999		46	548	2
Under 10,000		27	124	1

*Excludes agencies not having a unit with full-time officers.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000 and *Sheriffs' Departments 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

In 1994, 46% of all prosecutors' offices indicated that at least one prosecutor has been a member of a multijurisdictional task force. Of offices on such a task force, 76% indicated drug enforcement to be the goal. In 1992, 30% of prosecutors' offices reported involvement with a multijurisdictional task force.

Almost 80% of these offices also were involved with a drug task force.

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994*, NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Over 80% of full-time offices in large jurisdictions had at least one prosecutor who served as a member of a multijurisdictional task force. The percentages of full-time large offices with at least one prosecutor serving on a multi-jurisdictional task force were --

Drug	91%
Gang	54
Crime prevention	41
Organized crime	28

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1992 and 1994*, NCJ 145319, June 1996.

Drug testing for applicants

State agencies

In 1997, 82% of State agencies with 100 or more officers use drug test screening as one of their procedures for selecting new officer recruits.

Local agencies

In 1997, the majority of local agencies with 100 or more officers use drug test screenings as a part of the selecting procedures for hiring new officer recruits.

Type of local agency	Percent of agencies using drug test screening
County police	100%
Municipal police departments	86
Sheriffs' departments	85

Source: BJS, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 1997: Data for Individual State and Local Agencies with 100 or More Officers*, NCJ 171681, April 1999.

In 1997 about 3 in 5 local police departments had some type of program that authorized the testing of regular field and patrol officers for illegal drug use. These departments employed 84% of all local police officers.

At least 8 in 10 departments in each population category of 25,000 or more had a drug testing program for officers. About 7 in 10 departments serving a population of 2,500 to 24,999, and 5 in 10 departments serving fewer than 2,500 residents did also.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000.

In 1997 about three-fifths of sheriffs' departments had some type of program that authorized the testing of regular field and patrol officers for illegal drug use. These departments employed 84% of all sheriffs' officers.

Departments serving a population of 100,000 or more were the most likely to have a drug testing program for officers, with percentages in these categories ranging from 77% to 87%. Departments serving a population of less than 10,000 (45%) were the least likely to test any officers for drug use.

Source: BJS, *Sheriffs' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

Drug testing of applicants for sworn positions in local police and sheriffs' departments, by size of population served, 1997

Percent of agencies with a drug testing program

Type of agency and population served	Any type of testing program	Mandatory (all are tested)	Random selection process	Use of drugs is suspected
Local police departments (sworn positions)				
All sizes	61%	22%	16%	31%
1,000,000 or more	87%	6%	62%	62%
500,000-999,999	83	8	54	67
250,000-499,999	87	17	41	63
100,000-249,999	85	18	33	60
50,000-99,999	83	21	20	56
25,000-49,999	80	19	18	57
10,000-24,999	73	24	16	44
2,500-9,999	68	26	20	32
Under 2,500	49	20	12	21
Sheriffs' departments (sworn positions)				
All sizes	61%	23%	20%	25%
1,000,000 or more	86%	32%	25%	46%
500,000-999,999	77	16	22	61
250,000-499,999	87	35	16	39
100,000-249,999	83	31	24	40
50,000-99,999	71	29	21	27
25,000-49,999	65	26	23	26
10,000-24,999	56	21	21	20
Under 10,000	45	16	16	19

Note: Some agencies had more than one type of testing program.

Source: BJS, *Local Police Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173429, February 2000 and *Sheriff' Departments, 1997*, NCJ 173428, February 2000.

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Pretrial, prosecution, and adjudication

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Pretrial release

Federal court

Defendants charged with drug offenses who were released prior to trial and terminated pretrial services during 1998 ((27%)), were more likely than other defendants to incur at least one violation during the release period.

Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1998*, NCJ 180258, May 2000.

State court

The State Court Processing Statistics (SCPS) program revealed that of persons charged with a felony drug offense in 1996 in the 75 most populous counties --

- 66% were released prior to case disposition
- 29% were held on bail.
- 5% were denied bail.

Pretrial status of defendants charged with drug offenses, 1992-96

Pretrial status and type of release	1992	1994	1996
Total	100 %	100 %	100 %
Released	68 %	66 %	66 %
Financial total	27 %	24 %	28 %
Surety bond	15	15	18
Deposit bond	5	5	7
Full cash bond	7	2	1
Property bond	1	1	2
Nonfinancial total	39 %	39 %	37 %
Emergency release	2 %	3 %	1 %
Detained	32 %	34 %	34 %

Note: Detail may not add to total because of rounding.

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1996*, NCJ 176981, October 1999.

In 1996, among felony drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking (62%) were less likely to be released than those charged with other drug offenses (71%).

Percent of felony defendants released before trial, by type of offense, 1992-96

Most serious felony arrest charge	1992	1994	1996
All offenses	63 %	62 %	63 %
Violent offenses			
Murder	24	21	16
Rape	48	53	51
Robbery	50	43	39
Assault	68	66	66
Property offenses			
Burglary	51	47	47
Theft	67	68	66
Drug offenses	68	66	66
Trafficking	66	61	62
Other drug	71	70	71
Public-order offenses	65	64	71

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1996*, NCJ 176981, October 1999.

In 1996 detained drug defendants had a median bail amount of \$10,000. Among drug defendants, those charged with drug trafficking (27%) were about twice as likely to have bail set at \$25,000 or more, compared to other drug defendants (13%).

Of felony drug defendants released prior to the disposition of their case, 45% were released within 1 day of their arrest, 79% within 1 week, and 93% within 1 month.

In 1996 of felony drug defendants released before case disposition, 29% failed to make a scheduled court appearance within 1 year. Twenty-one percent of the drug defendants who failed to appear returned to court by the end of the 1-year study period, while 8% remained fugitives. By original arrest offense category, released drug defendants (20%) had the highest rearrest rate. This included 23% of defendants released after being charged with drug trafficking.

Source: BJS, *Felony Defendants in Large Urban Counties, 1996*, NCJ 176981, October 1999.

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Prosecution and adjudication

- **Prosecution of drug law violators**
 - **Federal**
 - **State**
- **Drug-related activities of prosecutors offices**

Prosecution of drug law violators

Federal

As reported in the **1998 Federal Criminal Case Processing**, drug prosecutions have comprised an increasing proportion of the Federal criminal caseload -- from 21% of defendants during 1982 to 35% during 1998.

The U.S. Sentencing Commission reported that mandatory minimum terms of imprisonment applied to approximately 64% of drug defendants sentenced during 1997.

Source: U.S. Sentencing Commission, **1998 Sourcebook of Federal Sentencing Statistics**.

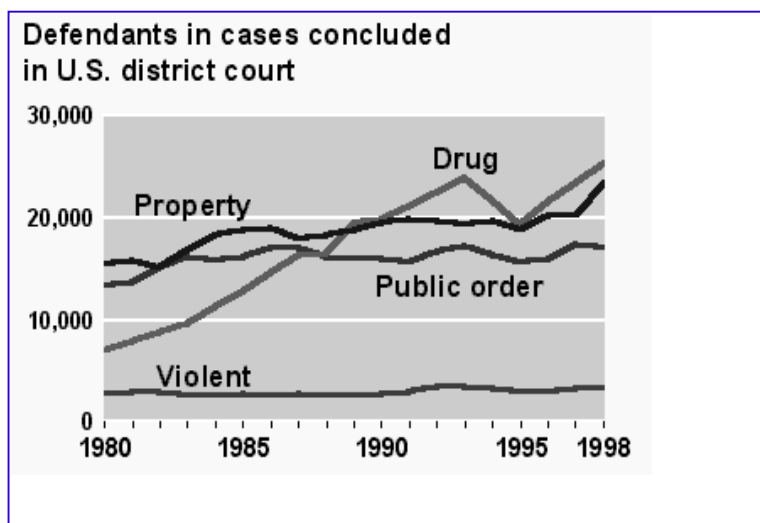
During 1998, U.S. attorneys initiated investigations involving 36,355 suspects for drug offenses.

Drug offenders were more likely than others to be prosecuted before U.S. district court judges. U.S. attorneys declined to prosecute 18% of drug offenders investigated during 1998. About a third (35%) of those declined for prosecution were referred to other authorities for prosecution.

During 1981 drug defendants accounted for less than a fifth of all Federal prosecutions. During 1998, however, drug defendants accounted for 36% of Federal prosecutions. Between 1981 and 1998 the number of suspects prosecuted for drug offenses increased 8% annually, on average, from 7,576 to 28,021.

Source: BJS, **Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1998**, NCJ 169277, September 1999.

Of cases concluded in Federal district court in every year since 1989, there have been more drug cases than other types of cases.



Click on the chart to view the data.

*Public order offenses include weapons offenses.

Source: BJS, **Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics**, annual.

Approximately 89% of drug defendants adjudicated during 1998 were convicted, compared to 76% during 1981. More than a quarter (30%) of drug defendants convicted during 1998 were identified as noncitizens; more than half (54%) had at least one prior adult conviction.

Source: BJS, **Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1998**, NCJ 180258, May 2000.

Under the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, the proportion of defendants sentenced to prison increased from 54% during 1988 to 71% during 1998. The proportion of drug offenders sentenced to prison increased from 79% to 92%.

Prison sentences imposed increased from 55.1 months during 1988 to 58.9 months during 1998. For drug offenses, prison sentences increased from 71.3 months to 78.7 months; for weapons offenses, sentences imposed increased from 52.3 months to 101.3 months.

Source: BJS, *Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1998*, NCJ 169277, September 1999.

Federal drug offenders sentenced during 1986 could expect to serve approximately 58% of the prison sentence imposed. The remaining portion of the sentence was served on parole, provided the offender did not violate any conditions of release. Under the Sentencing Reform Act, defendants are required to serve at least 87% of the prison sentence imposed.

Source: BJS, *Time Served in Prison by Federal Offenders, 1986-97*, NCJ 171682, June 1999.

State

From 1994 to 1996 the estimated numbers for drug traffickers increased from --

- 318,607 to 322,393 adults arrested for drug trafficking
- 165,430 to 212,504 persons convicted of felony drug trafficking
- 116,938 to 154,977 drug traffickers sentenced to incarceration
- 78,762 to 83,913 drug traffickers sentenced to State prison or 26 for every 100 drug trafficking arrests.

Of persons convicted of drug trafficking in State courts in 1996 --

- 84% were males
- 44% were between ages 20 and 29.

The racial composition of drug traffickers convicted in State courts changed from 1994 to 1996:

	Percent of drug traffickers convicted	
	White	Black
1994	37 %	63 %
1996	43	56

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, NCJ 173939, May 1999.

In 1996, drug offenders comprised a third of all persons convicted of a felony in State courts. Drug traffickers accounted for 21% of all convicted felons; drug possessors also accounted for 14% of all convicted felons.

- Ninety-two percent of drug trafficking convictions in 1996 resulted from guilty pleas; 3% resulted from jury trials; and 4% from bench trials.
- Seventy-three percent of persons convicted of drug trafficking in 1996 were sentenced to some kind of incarceration: 39% to prison, 33% to jail, and 27% on probation.
- The average prison sentence for persons convicted of drug trafficking was 4½ years, of which the estimated time to be served was less than 2 years.

**Felony convictions and sentences
relative to the number of arrests, 1996**

For 100 arrests

Offense	Felony conviction	Incarcerations	Prison sentences
Murder*	71	67	65
Robbery	40	35	29
Aggravated assault	16	11	7
Burglary	41	29	18
Motor vehicle theft	17	13	6
Drug trafficking	66	48	26

*Includes nonnegligent manslaughter

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, NCJ 173939, May 1999.

In 1996 of persons convicted of drug possession, 41% were sentenced to jail, 29% to prison, and 30% to probation. The average prison sentence was 3 years and 5 months, of which the estimated time to be served was 16 months.

**Mean State prison sentence and estimated
time to be served in prison, by offenses, 1996**

Most serious conviction offense	Mean State prison sentence	Estimated time to be served/a
Murder/b	257 mos.	128 mos.
Sexual assault/c	120	61
Robbery	101	48
Aggravated assault	69	38
Burglary	60	25
Larceny/d	40	17
Drug offenses		
Possession	41	16
Trafficking	55	23

a/ Derived by multiplying the percentage of sentence to be served by the mean sentence imposed. Percentages are based on data from 231,857 persons released from State prisons in 1996 (National Corrections Reporting Program, 1996; tables 2-8 and 2-12).

b/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

c/ Includes rape.

d/ Includes motor vehicle theft.

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, NCJ 173939, May 1999.

The average (mean) time from arrest to sentencing by trial was 285 days for a drug trafficking case resulting in a State court conviction in 1996. The average time was 330 days for jury trials, 238 days for bench trials, and 232 days for guilty pleas.

Fewer drug offenders incurred additional penalties in 1996 than in 1994. In 1996, besides being sentenced to incarceration or probation, drug offenders incurred other penalties --

- 22% were ordered to pay a fine
- 7% pay victim restitution
- 7% receive treatment
- 6% perform community service
- 2% comply with some other additional penalty (for example, undergo house arrest or appear periodically for drug testing).

Source: BJS, *Felony Sentences in State Courts, 1996*, NCJ 173939, May 1999.

Drug-related activities of prosecutors offices

Among the full-time large offices that did have a cross-designated Federal prosecutor, two-thirds prosecuted drug-related cases, and about a quarter, organized crime cases.

About 45% of all offices were involved with community-based drug abuse programs. Of these offices, almost all (96%) were involved with a community-based drug education program, 70% a drug prevention program, and 39% a drug treatment program. The percentages of offices involved with community-based drug abuse programs, by type of office, were --

Full-time large	61 %
Full-time small	46
Part-time	42

Almost 90% of all offices had cases in which the sentence involved alcohol and drug rehabilitation or community service. Of offices involved with community-based drug abuse programs, 45% also were involved with the funding of the program through asset forfeiture, operating budget, or soliciting funds from nongovernmental sources.

Methods of felony prosecution

In 1994 prosecutors' offices used a variety of methods to process cases in their jurisdiction. Sixty-three percent of offices had a diversion program for first-time offenders, and 59% used deferred prosecution. Two-thirds of all offices used vertical prosecution in which a prosecutor stays with a case to disposition. Among these offices, prosecutors reported using this method for --

All cases	41 %
Sexual assault	12
Drug	11
Felony only	10
Child abuse	9
Homicide	8

Drug courts

Relatively few of the State court prosecutors' offices (8%) reported that their jurisdiction operated a separate, specialized drug court for processing drug-involved offenders. Drug courts were most frequently operated (41%) in full-time offices in large jurisdictions.

Source: BJS, *Prosecutors in State Courts, 1994*, NCJ 151656, October 1996.

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Probationers

Probationers are criminal offenders who have been sentenced to a period of correctional supervision in the community. On December 31, 1998, a total of 3,417,613 adult men and women were serving a probation sentence in the United States. Twenty-four percent of probationers had a drug law violation.

Source: BJS, [Probation and Parole in the United States, 1998](#), NCJ 178234, August 1999.

An estimated 16% of mentally ill probationers and 21% of other probationers reported their current offense was a drug offense.

Source: BJS, [Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers](#), NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Jail inmates

In 1996 an estimated number of jail inmates held for a drug offense was 109,200, an increase from 87,400 in 1989 and 20,400 in 1983.

The rapid increase in the percentage of jail inmates held for a drug offense during the 1980's abated in the 1990's. The percentage charged with a drug offense rose from 9% in 1983 to 23% in 1989 but remained at 22% in 1996.

**Most serious offense of jail inmates,
1996, 1989, and 1983**

Most serious offense	Percent of jail inmates		
	1996	1989	1983
Violent offenses	26.3 %	22.5 %	30.7 %
Murder/a	2.8	2.8	4.1
Assault	11.6	7.2	8.6
Other sexual assault	2.7	2.6	2.0
Property offenses	26.9 %	30.0 %	38.6 %
Burglary	7.6	10.7	14.3
Larceny/theft	8.0	7.9	11.7
Drug offenses	22 %	23.0 %	9.3 %
Possession	11.5	9.7	4.7
Trafficking	9.2	12.0	4.0
Other drug	1.3	1.3	0.6
Public-order offenses	24.3 %	22.8 %	20.6 %
Driving while intoxicated/b	7.4	8.8	7.0
Drunkenness/morals/c	2.0	1.7	3.4

Note: Excludes inmates for whom offense was unknown.

a/ Includes nonnegligent manslaughter.

b/ Includes driving while intoxicated and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

c/ Includes drunkenness, vagrancy, disorderly conduct, unlawful assembly, morals, and commercialized vice.

Source: BJS, *Profile of Jail Inmates, 1996*, NCJ 164620, April 1998.

Among jail inmates who said they had been tested for HIV/AIDS, those held for drug offenses were the most likely to be HIV positive (3.3%). Drug offenders were twice as likely as violent offenders (1.5%) to report that they tested positive for HIV.

Source: BJS, *HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1995*, NCJ-164260, August 1997.

**Local jail inmates testing HIV positive,
by offense and prior drug use, 1995-96**

Percent of tested jail inmates who
reported HIV positive results

Characteristics	Ever tested	Tested positive results
Current offense/a		
Violent	61.5 %	1.5 %
Property	66.3	2.2
Drug	65.7	3.3
Public-order	57.6	1.7
Prior drug use/b		
Never used	52.3 %	1.6 %
Ever used	65.0	2.3
Used month before offense/c	67.4	3.0
Used needle to inject drugs/d	77.6	4.0
Shared a needle/e	78.6	6.3

a/ Excludes jail inmates whose offense was unknown.

b/ Inmates were asked a detailed set of questions about past use of illegal drugs. These drugs included marijuana, barbiturates, methaqualone, tranquilizers (without a doctor's prescription), methamphetamine, other amphetamines, crack, cocaine other than crack, heroin, other opiates, PCP, LSD, inhaled or sniffed substances, and other drugs.

c/ Inmates who were unconvicted (awaiting arraignment, awaiting trial or on trial) were not asked any questions about drug use during the month before the arrest for which they were currently detained.

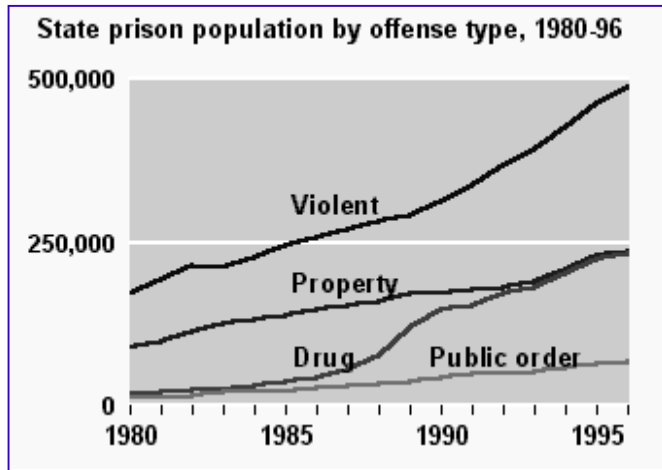
d/ All inmates who reported prior drug use were asked: "Have you ever used a needle to get any drug injected under your skin, into a muscle or into a vein for non-medical reasons?"

e/ Inmates who reported ever using a needle to inject drugs were asked: "Have you ever used a needle that you knew or suspected had been used by someone else for injecting drugs or shared a needle that you had used with someone else?"

Source: BJS, *HIV in Prisons and Jails, 1995*, NCJ 164260, August 1997.

State prison inmates

From 1990 to 1996 the increase in drug offenses among State inmates almost doubled: 149,700 to 237,600.



Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: BJS, *Correctional Populations in the United States, 1980-96*

An estimated 227,400 inmates in State prison were held for drug offenses. Between 1990 and 1997 the largest growth of State inmates were violent offenders. During the 7-year period, the number of violent offenders grew 203,900, while the number of drug offenders grew 77,700. As a percentage of the total growth, violent offenders accounted for 50% of the total growth, drug offenders 19%, property offenders 16%, and public-order offenders 15%.

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 1998*, NCJ 175687, August 1999.

About 13% of mentally ill inmates and 22% of other inmates in State prison were incarcerated for a drug offense.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Those inmates being held on a drug offense in State prisons reported the highest HIV positive rate (2.9%).

State inmates ever tested,
by offenses

	Number positive	Percent HIV
Violent	360,370	1.9 %
Property	178,601	2.4
Drug	164,256	2.9
Public-order	77,049	1.9

Note: Data are from the 1996 Survey of Inmates in Local Jails and the 1997 Surveys of Inmates in State and Federal Correctional Facilities.

Source: BJS, *1996-1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB in Correctional Facilities*, NCJ 176344, July 1999.

Source: NIJ, *1996-1997 Update: HIV/AIDS, STDs, and TB in Correctional Facilities*, NCJ 176344, July 1999.

Population by sex

Detailed estimates of the State inmates at yearend 1990 and 1997 reveal differences in the sources of growth among male and female inmates. During this period the number of female inmates serving time for drug offenses nearly doubled, while the number of male inmates in for drug offenses rose 48%. The number serving time for violent offenses, however, rose at about the same pace (up 64% for men and 68% for women).

Percent change in number of
State inmates, 1990-97*

	Male	Female
Total	58 %	83 %
Violent	64	68
Property	37	53
Drug	48 %	99 %
Public-order	131	274

*Based on State inmates with a
sentence of more than 1 year.

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 1998*, NCJ 175687, August 1999.

Population by race

Estimates of the offense distributions of State inmates also reveal differences in the sources of population growth among white, black, and Hispanic prisoners. Between 1990 and 1997 the number of black inmates serving time for drug offenses increased from 79,800 to 127,700 (an increase of 60%), while the number of white inmates increased from 29,600 to 43,200 (up by 46%) and the number of Hispanic inmates increased from 38,700 to 51,200 (up by 32%). The number of violent offenders also rose more sharply among black inmates (up 69%) and Hispanic inmates (up 86%) than among white inmates (up 47%).

Overall, the increasing number of drug offenses accounted for 24% of the total growth among black inmates, 18% of the total growth among Hispanic inmates, and 11% of the growth among white inmates. Violent offenders accounted for the largest source of growth for all groups -- among white State inmates (44%), black inmates (51%), and Hispanic inmates (53%).

Total growth of sentenced prisoners under State jurisdiction, by offense, race, and Hispanic origin, 1990-97

	White		Black		Hispanic	
	Increase, 1990-97	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-97	Percent of total	Increase, 1990-97	Percent of total
Total	123,100	100 %	197,000	100 %	71,600	100 %
Violent	54,700	44	100,800	51	37,700	53
Property	28,500	23	26,700	14	10,200	14
Drug	13,600	11	47,900	24	12,500	18
Public-order	27,100	22	21,400	11	11,000	15

Source: BJS, *Prisoners in 1998*, NCJ 175687, August 1999.

Federal prisoners

Prisoners sentenced for drug offenses constituted the largest group of Federal inmates (58%) in 1998, up from 53% in 1990. On September 30, 1998, Federal prisons held 63,011 sentenced drug offenders, compared to 31,300 at yearend 1990.

Source: BJS, *Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, 1998*, NCJ 180258, May 2000.

In Federal prison, where the majority of inmates are incarcerated for a drug offense, 40% of those identified as mentally ill and 64% of other Federal inmates were in prison for a drug-related crime.

Source: BJS, *Mental Health and Treatment of Inmates and Probationers*, NCJ 174463, July 1999.

Juveniles

In October 1997 the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) conducted the new Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement (CJRP). Based on their findings, 9,286 or (8.8%) of juveniles confined in a facility had committed a drug offense.

Source: OJJDP, *Juvenile Offenders in Residential Placement, 1997*, Fact Sheet, January 1999.

As of September 30, 1994, 124 juvenile delinquents were confined in a State juvenile correctional facility under contract to the Federal Bureau of Prisons. (The Federal Bureau of Prisons does not have its own facilities for juveniles.) Most (64%) were adjudicated delinquent of a violent offense, and 14% were delinquent of a drug offense.

Juvenile delinquents confined by the Federal Bureau of Prisons, 1994

Most serious offense Number Percent

Total*	124	100.0 %
Violent offenses	77	64.7
Property offenses	16	13.4
Drug offenses	17	14.3
Public-order offenses	9	7.6

*Includes cases for which an offense category could not be determined.

Source: U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Prisons, SENTRY system data file, fiscal year ending September 30, 1994 as presented in *Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, NCJ 163066, January 1997.

During 1994, 102 juvenile delinquents were released by the Federal Bureau of Prisons from a juvenile correctional facility. The average time served was --

- 14 months for all those released
- 21 months for drug offenders
- 17 months for violent offenders.

Source: BJS, *Juvenile Delinquents in the Federal Criminal Justice System*, NCJ 163066, January 1997.

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Correctional facilities

- Drug interdiction
- Drug testing of inmates

Drug interdiction

Data from the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities describe the various methods used to prevent illegal entry of drugs into prisons and to stop the use of illegal drugs by those under correctional supervision including questioning, patdowns, clothing exchanges, and body cavity searches.

Inmates/residents activities

Most prison facilities patted down inmates and required them to exchange clothes upon admission or any reentry --

- 88% of Federal facilities reported that they patted down new admissions and required them to replace their clothes.
- 78% of confinement facilities and 71% of community-based facilities patted down newly admitted inmates.
- 59% of State confinement facilities and 26% of community-based facilities required them to substitute prison clothes.

At least three-quarters of both State and Federal facilities questioned new admissions about drugs.

Drug interdiction activities for prison inmates/residents, by type of facility, June 1990

Inmate drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	Confinement	Community-based
Inmates at admission			
Verbal questioning	83.8 %	74.9 %	79.2 %
Patdown	87.5	77.7	71.2
Clothing exchange	87.5	59.0	26.0
Body cavity search	61.3	45.1	14.4
Inmates returning from temporary release			
Verbal questioning	72.5 %	66.5 %	68.0 %
Patdown	81.3	79.7	81.6
Clothing exchange	72.5	54.5	29.2
Body cavity search	63.8	47.6	20.4

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Visitors

Staff checked visitors' belongings for drugs in 93% of Federal institutions, clothing exchange 87% of State confinement facilities, and 76% of the community-based. Visitors were patted down for drugs in 51% of Federal prisons, 69% of State confinement institutions, and 40% of community-based facilities.

**Drug interdiction activities for prison visitors,
by type of facility, June 1990**

Visitor drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	Confinement	Community-based
Verbal questioning	97.5 %	78.7 %	82.4 %
Patdown	51.3	69.4	39.6
Clothing exchange	92.5	87.4	75.6
Body cavity search	27.5	22.4	5.2

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Staff

When reporting to work, staff were patted down in about half of State confinement facilities and in more than a fifth of Federal confinement and State community-based facilities. In over 50% of Federal facilities and 40% of State facilities staff were questioned. Most interdiction activities involving staff were conducted on suspicion of smuggling drugs.

Drug interdiction activities for prison staff, by type of facility, June 1990

Staff drug interdiction activities	Percent of facilities		
	State		
	Federal confinement	Confinement	Community-based
No reported questioning			
Interdiction activity	17.5 %	23.4 %	42.0 %
Verbal questioning	53.8	43.3	45.2
Patdown	21.3	49.3	24.4

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

Drug testing of inmates

Most prison facilities conducted urine tests upon suspicion of drug use. Twenty percent of all facilities systematically conducted urine tests on all inmates at least once during their confinement.

State and Federal correctional authorities reported data to the BJS 1990 Census of State and Federal Adult Correctional Facilities on drug-testing practices in their facilities. About 87% of correctional facilities tested some inmates for illegal drug use between July 1, 1989, and June 30, 1990.

**Percent of prison inmates tested for drug use,
by criteria for testing and type of facility,
June 1990**

Characteristics	Type of facility		
	All facilities	Federal confinement	State confinement
Total*	86.7 %	100.0 %	82.5 %
Systematically of everyone at least once	20.0	31.3	12.3
Randomly on samples	62.7	96.3	56.5
On indication of possible drug use	75.8	93.8	74.1
Other criteria	17.3	23.8	18.4

*Detail adds to more than totals because some facilities tested on more than one basis.

Source: BJS, *Drug Enforcement and Treatment in Prisons, 1990*, NCJ 134724, July 1992.

The 1992 Annual Survey of Jails revealed that 308 out of 503 large jail jurisdictions conducted urinalysis on inmates. Of the 308 jurisdictions testing for drug use, 219 reported testing inmates upon suspicion of drug use, 159 conducted random tests, 153 tested inmates on return from the community, and 35 tested all inmates at least once.

Source: BJS, *Jail Inmates, 1992*, NCJ 143284, August 1993.

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Drug treatment under correctional supervision

[On probation](#) | [In jail](#) | [In State and Federal prisons](#)

On probation

Almost all probationers (99%) had one or more conditions to their sentence required by the court or probation agency. Among such conditions were drug testing and substance abuse treatment.

Conditions of sentences of adult probationers, by severity of offense, 1995

Condition of sentence	Severity of offense		
	Total	Felony	Misdemeanor
Any condition	98.6 %	98.4 %	98.9 %
Alcohol/drug restrictions	38.2 %	48.1 %	23.7 %
Mandatory drug testing	32.5	43.0	17.1
Remain alcohol/drug free	8.1	10.4	5.2
Substance abuse treatment	41.0 %	37.5 %	45.7 %
Alcohol	29.2	21.3	41.0
Drug	23.0	28.3	14.8
Number of probationers*	2,558,981	1,470,696	982,536

Note: Detail may not sum to total because probationers may have more than one condition on their sentences and totals may include items not shown in the table.

*Excludes 61,579 probationers (2% of all adults on probation) for whom information on conditions of probation was not reported.

Source: BJS, *Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Drug or alcohol treatment was a sentence condition for 41% of adults on probation; 37% had received treatment. An estimated 29% of probationers were required to get treatment for alcohol abuse or dependency and 23% for drug abuse. Drug treatment was required nearly twice as frequently among felons as misdemeanants (28% compared to 15%).

Thirty-two percent of all probationers were subject to mandatory drug testing -- 43% of felons and 17% of misdemeanants.

Source: BJS, *Characteristics of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 164267, December 1997.

Seventeen percent of all probationers reported having participated in a drug treatment program during their probation sentence. The percentage rose as the severity of prior drug use increased. Of those with any past drug use, 25% had received treatment, and the percentage grew to 42% of those using drugs in the month before the offense. A majority of those using drugs at the time of offense reported participation in drug treatment during their current sentence.

Of the individual drug treatment programs, the most common among all probationers were --

- 11% Narcotics/Cocaine Anonymous groups
- 8% drug rehabilitation, and
- 6% outpatient clinics.

The types of treatment programs did not differ according to the level of the probationers' past drug use.

For probationers using drugs in the month prior to the offense, the most common programs were --

- 27% Narcotics/Cocaine Anonymous,
- 20% drug rehabilitation, and
- 17% outpatient clinics.

Nearly a third of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers were currently enrolled in an alcohol or drug treatment program when interviewed. Half of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers said they were treated on their current sentence to probation, and about two-thirds had been treated at some time in their lives.

Treatment history of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers, 1995

Participated in an alcohol or drug treatment program	Percent of alcohol- or drug-involved probationers
--	---

Ever	64.2 %
While incarcerated	10.2
Before current sentence	39.8
During current sentence	53.6
Currently in program	30.1

Number of probationers	1,390,572
------------------------	-----------

Note: Probationers may have received treatment at multiple times in the past.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment of Adults on Probation, 1995*, NCJ 166611, March 1998.

Since their sentence began, over 40% of DWI offenders on probation who reported using drugs at the time of their offense had participated in drug treatment or programs: 13% of those who reported prior drug use, and 22% of those who were regular drug users.

Drug use	Probationers
Ever used	13.2 %
Ever used regularly*	22.1
Used at time of offense	43.3

*Used drugs at least once per week for at least a month.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

In Jail

The number of persons who participated in some type of treatment program (drug, alcohol, mental health, and other medical treatment) while under jail supervision decreased by half from 1996 to 1998; 10,425 in 1996, 6,693 in 1997, and 5,702 in 1998. These numbers were based on midyear 1995-98 data.

Source: BJS, *Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1998*, NCJ 173414, March 1999.

Of DWI offenders in jail who reported using drugs at the time of their offense, 25% reported some type of drug treatment since their admission, as did 7% of those who reported any prior drug use and 9% of those who were regular users.

	Jail inmates who reported some drug treatment
--	---

Drug use

Ever used	7.1 %
-----------	-------

Ever used	9.0
-----------	-----

regularly*

Used at time of	25.4
-----------------	------

offense

*Used drugs at least once per week

for at least a month.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

Source: BJS, *DWI Offenders under Correctional Supervision*, NCJ 172212, June 1999.

In State and Federal prisons

- **Prisoners' drug treatment experience**
- **Treatment facilities**

Prisoners' drug treatment experience

In 1997, an estimated 340,047 (24.4% of total) State prisoners and 24,729 (24.5% of total) Federal prisoners said that they had participated in either professional substance abuse treatment or other abuse programs since their admission.

A third of State prisoners reported past participation in alcohol or drug abuse treatment, such as time spent in a residential facility, professional counseling, detoxification, or use of a maintenance drug. About 1 in 8 State prisoners had participated in these types of alcohol or drug treatment since their admission to prison.

In both State and Federal prisons, the percentage of inmates who reported being treated for drug abuse since their admission dropped since 1991.

In 1997, 1 in 10 State prisoners reported being treated for drug abuse since admission; a decrease from the 1 in 4 prisoners reporting such treatment in 1991. There was also a drop in the percentage of

Federal prisoners (9%) reporting treatment since admission (16% in 1991).

Among both State and Federal prisoners, enrollment in other drug abuse programs, such as self-help or peer groups and drug education classes, had gone up over this period. In 1997, 20% of both State and Federal prisoners reported participation in drug abuse programs during their current prison term, up from 16% of State and 10% of Federal prisoners in 1991. Among those prisoners who used drugs at the time of offense, participation in these programs had risen to 32% of State and 38% of Federal prisoners in 1997, compared to about 25% of each in 1991.

Source: BJS, *Substance Abuse and Treatment, State and Federal Prisoners, 1997*, NCJ 172871, January 1999.

Treatment facilities

For both the 1990 and 1995 censuses, facility respondents were mailed a questionnaire which, among other items, asked "What are the functions of this facility?" With nine possible choices of State and Federal correctional facilities, including "alcohol/drug treatment confinement," respondents were requested to check all functions that applied and to circle the function that applied to the largest number of inmates.

The number of correctional facilities which operated primarily as alcohol/drug treatment institutions nearly doubled from 97 in 1990 to 192 in 1995.

State and Federal authorities, for both confinement and community-based institutions, operated more alcohol and drug treatment facilities in 1995 than in 1990. Among State confinement facilities the number nearly doubled from 93 to 180, and among Federal confinement facilities it rose from 4 to 12. In community-based settings the number of alcohol and drug treatment facilities grew from 20 to 41.

The largest growth in the number of drug and alcohol treatment facilities occurred among minimum security of State and Federal facilities, from 27 in 1990 to 66 in 1995. The greatest relative growth of inmates housed in alcohol and drug treatment institutions also occurred among minimum security institutions where the number of persons increased more than 400% from 5,573 in 1990 to 28,604, 5 years later. Medium security facilities had the largest growth in the number of inmates in treatment institutions, adding 53,111 inmates from 1990 to 1995.

Overall, in 1995, 97% of the facilities offered counseling. Drug and alcohol counseling was available in nearly 90% of the facilities; psychological, life skills, and psychiatric counseling in 69%; and community adjustment counseling in 67%.

Total number of State and Federal correctional facilities providing counseling programs, midyear 1995

Characteristics	All facilities		
	Total	Confinement	Community-based
All facilities	1,500	1,196	304
With counseling programs	1,451	1,152	299
Drug dependency, counseling, awareness	1,327	1,052	275
Alcohol dependency, counseling, awareness	1,345	1,075	270

Source: BJS, *Census of State and Federal Correctional Facilities, 1995*, NCJ 164266, August 1997.

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[Drugs and Crime Facts](#)

Drug control budget

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Federal

According to the Office of National Drug Control Policy, the Federal spending on drug control programs has increased from \$1.5 billion in fiscal year 1981 to \$18.5 billion (estimated) in fiscal year 2000.

Total Federal drug control budget

(in millions)

FY 1981 actual	\$1,531.8
FY 1989 actual	6,663.7
FY 1990 actual	9,758.9
FY 1991 actual	10,957.6
FY 1992 actual	11,910.1
FY 1993 actual	12,171.1
FY 1994 actual	12,184.4
FY 1995 actual	13,251.2
FY 1996 actual	13,454.0
FY 1997 actual	15,033.2
FY 1998 actual	15,977.4
FY 1999 actual	17,711.2
FY 2000 estimated	18,455.0

Fiscal Year 1999 and 2000 Federal drug control budget by function

	1999 (in millions)	2000 (in millions)
Total	\$17,711.2	\$18,455.0
Drug treatment	\$2,949.0	\$3,147.0
Drug prevention	1,953.5	2,064.5
Criminal justice system	8,557.6	8,631.2
International	774.7	589.0
Interdiction	2,417.9	1,922.7
Research	781.3	856.2
Intelligence	277.3	289.9
International (U.S. Support for Plan Colombia & the Andean Region)		954.4

Source: ONDCP, *The National Drug Control Strategy: FY2001 Budget Summary February 2000*, March 2000.

State and local

ONDCP also reported that State and local governments spent \$15.9 billion on drug control activities during fiscal 1991, a 13% increase over the \$14.1 billion spent during fiscal 1990.

State and local spending for drug control, fiscal years 1990 and 1991

	FY1990	FY1991
	(in millions)	
Total	\$14,075	\$15,907
Justice	\$11,525	\$12,619
Police protection	4,035	4,223
Judicial and legal system	1,346	1,449
Corrections	6,045	6,827
Other	100	120
Health and hospitals	2,184	2,784
Education	366	503

Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy, as reported in *Fact sheet: Drug Data Summary*, NCJ 167246, February 1998.

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Drug use

Youth | General population

Youth

- [Use](#)
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- [Student reports of availability of drugs](#)

Use

The Monitoring the Future Study asked high school seniors, "On how many occasions, if any, have you used drugs or alcohol during the last 12 months or 30 days?"

Reported drug and alcohol use by high school seniors, 1999

Drugs	Used within the last:	
	12 months*	30 days
Alcohol	73.8 %	51.0 %
Marijuana	37.8	23.1
Stimulants	10.2	4.5
Hallucinogens	9.4	3.5
Other opiates	6.7	2.6
Sedatives	6.3	2.8
Cocaine	6.2	2.6
Tranquilizers	5.8	2.5
Inhalants	5.6	2.0
Steroids	1.8	0.9
Heroin	1.1	0.5

*Including the last 30 days.

Source: University of Michigan,
Drug Use from the *Monitoring the
Future Study*, December 1999,
press release.

Self-reports of drug use among high school seniors may under represent drug use among youth of that age because high school dropouts and truants are not included, and these groups may have more involvement with drugs than those who stay in school.

Percent of all college students, 1988-98

Drug use	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Marijuana											
Daily within last month	1.8%	2.6%	1.7%	1.8%	1.6%	1.9%	1.8%	3.7%	2.8%	3.7%	4.0%
Last month	16.8	16.3	14.0	14.1	14.6	14.2	15.1	18.6	17.5	17.7	18.6
Last year	34.6	33.6	29.4	26.5	27.7	27.9	29.3	31.2	33.1	31.6	35.9
Cocaine											
Daily within last month	0.1%	*	0.0%	*	0.0%	0.0%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Last month	4.2	2.8	1.2	1.0	1.0	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	1.6	1.7
Last year	10.0	8.2	5.6	3.6	3.0	2.7	2.0	3.6	2.9	3.4	4.6

* Less than 0.05%

Rates of cocaine use by college students over the previous 5 years had varied between 3.0% of all students in 1992 to 4.6% in 1998, and marijuana use ranged from 27.7% in 1992 to 35.9% in 1998.

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, National Survey Results on Drug Use from the Monitoring the Future Study, 1975-98 as reported in the **BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998**, NCJ 176356.

Of 1999 high school seniors --

49.7% reported having ever used marijuana/hashish
 9.8% reported having ever used cocaine
 2.0% reported having ever used heroin.

Source: University of Michigan, **The Monitoring the Future Study**, December 1999, press release.

1999 high school seniors reporting they could obtain drugs fairly easily or very easily

Marijuana	88.9%
Amphetamines	58.1
Cocaine	47.6
LSD	44.7
Crack	41.1
Barbiturate	37.9
Tranquilizers	32.7
Heroin	32.1
Crystal methamphetamine (ice)	27.6
PCP	26.7
Amyl/butyl nitrates	21.4

Source: University of Michigan, the **Monitoring the Future Study**, December 1999, press release.

The increase in the use of marijuana has been especially pronounced. Between 1991 and 1998, past-month use of marijuana increased from:

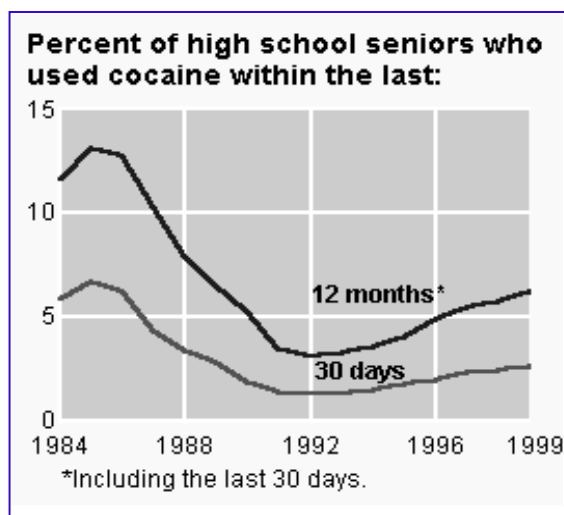
- 14% to 23% among high school seniors.
- 9% to 19% among 10th graders.
- 3% to 10% among 8th graders.

Reported use of marijuana by high school seniors during the past month peaked in 1978 at 37% and declined to its lowest level in 1992 at 12%.

The use of cocaine within the past month of the survey by high school seniors peaked in 1985 at 6.7%, up from 1.9% in 1975 at the survey's inception. Cocaine use declined to a low of 1.3% in 1992 and 1993. In 1998, 2.4% of high school seniors reported past-month cocaine use.

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study as presented in the ONDCP *Fact Sheet: Drug Use Trends*, June 1999.

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985.



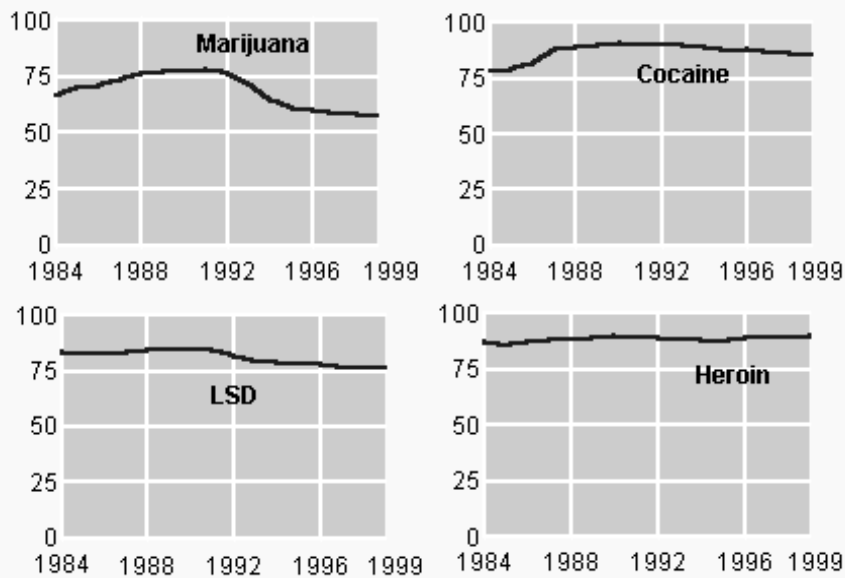
Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: University of Michigan, *The Monitoring the Future Study*, December 1999, press release.

Perceived risk

From 1984 to 1999 the percentage of high school seniors that were asked, "How much do you think people risk harming themselves?" remained virtually stable. Those students answering "great risk" in regular use accounted for the following --

Percent of high school seniors who think people are at great risk of harming themselves with drug use, 1984-99



Click on the chart to view the data.

Source: University of Michigan, *The Monitoring the Future Study*, December 1999, press release.

Student reports of availability of drugs

In 1995 and 1997, almost one-third of all students in grade 9 through 12 (32%) reported someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property. This was an increase from 1993 when (24%) of such students reported illegal drugs available to them on school property.

Between 1993 and 1995, males and females reported that illegal drugs were made available to them on school property increased. Males were more likely than females to report that drugs were offered, sold, or given to them on school property. In 1997, males (37%) and females (25%) reported availability of drugs.

Source: BJS jointly with the U.S. Department of Education, *Indicators of School Crime and Safety, 1999*, NCJ 178906, September 1999.

In 1989, 63.2% of students ages 12 through 19 reported that marijuana, cocaine, crack, or upper/downers were available at school, according to data in the National Crime Victimization Survey School Crime Supplement. That percentage increased somewhat to 65.3% in 1995.

In 1995 the availability of drugs was reported more often by --

- public schools students (67.2%) than by private school students (48.0%)
- students in higher grades were more likely than students in lower grades in both 1989 and 1995

Similar rates of drug availability were reported by --

- white students (68%) and black students (67%)
- students residing in cities (67%), suburban areas (68%), and nonmetropolitan areas (65%).

Source: BJS, *1989 and 1995 School Crime Supplement to the National Crime Victimization Survey: Students Report of School Crime*, NCJ 169607, March 1998.

General population

According to data from the preliminary 1998 **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA)** National Household Survey on Drug Abuse --

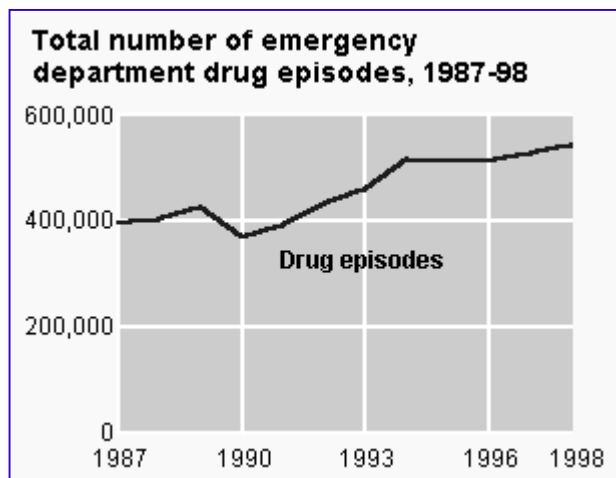
- 78 million Americans age 12 or older (36% of the population) reported illicit drug use at least once in their lifetime
- 11% reported use of a drug within the past year
- 6% reported use of a drug within the past month.

Data from the 1998 survey showed that marijuana and cocaine use is the most prevalent among ages 18 to 34.

Age of respondent, 1998				
Drug use	12-17	18-25	26-34	35 or older
Marijuana				
Last month	8.3 %	13.8 %	5.5 %	2.5 %
Last year	14.1	24.1	9.7	4.1
Cocaine				
Last month	0.8 %	2.0 %	1.2 %	0.5 %
Last year	1.7	4.7	2.7	0.9

Source: SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, **1998 National Household Survey on Drug Abuse**, August 1999.

Another measure of drug use in the general population is the number of drug-related emergency room episodes and drug-related deaths. In 1998 the SAMHSA **Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN)** reported 542,544 drug-related episodes in hospital emergency departments nationwide, an increase from the 518,521 reported in 1994.



Click on the chart to view the data.

From 1995 to 1998 cocaine was the most common drug reported in emergency department episodes.

**Total number of drug mentions in drug
abuse-related emergency department
episodes, by type of drug, 1995-98**

	Cocaine	Heroin	Marijuana
1995	135,801	70,838	45,271
1996	152,433	73,846	53,789
1997	161,087	72,010	64,744
1998	172,014	77,645	76,870

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *[Year-End 1998 Emergency Department Data from the Drug Abuse Warning Network](#)*.

The total of 9,743 deaths related to drug abuse were reported in 1997 by 145 medical examiners in 42 metropolitan areas involving 24,162 drug mentions. Drug abuse deaths usually involve drug overdoses, but they also include deaths in which drug usage was a contributory factor.

Source: U. S. Department of Health and Human Services, SAMHSA, Office of Applied Studies, *[Drug Abuse Warning Network \(DAWN\) Annual Medical Examiner Data 1997](#)*.

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*Drugs and Crime Facts*

Public opinion about drugs

As reported in the *1998 BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics*, the percentage of Gallup Poll respondents describing drug abuse as the single most important problem facing our country peaked in 1989:

Date of poll	Drug abuse most serious problem
September 1988	11 %
May 1989	27
November 1989	38
July 1990	18
March 1991	11
March 1992	8
January 1993	6
January 1994	9
August 1994	9
January 1995	6
May 1996	10
January 1997	17
April 1998	12
September 1998	9
May 1999	5

Among Gallup Poll respondents, the use of drugs was most often mentioned as one of the biggest problems for schools in their communities. Giving that response in 1998 were --

- 12% of public school parents
- 8% of nonpublic school parents
- 10% of those with no children in school
- 10% of all surveyed.

When asked about spending for various social problems, 58% of the respondents to a 1998 National Opinion Research Center (NORC) Poll said this country is spending too little to deal with drug addiction. In 1996 a Gallup Poll prepared for the Office of National Drug Control Policy respondents were asked how best the government should allocate its resources in its fight against drugs --

- 31% said "stopping drugs from coming into the United States"
- 28% said "having more programs to educate both youth and adults about the dangers of drugs"
- 22% said "more efforts by police action and criminal prosecutor to stop the drug dealers"
- 9% said "putting more drug treatment programs in communities and neighborhoods"
- 6% said "more efforts by police action and criminal prosecutor to stop the people who buy drugs"
- 2% said "building more jails and prisons for drug offenders."

NORC has asked adults (age 18 or older) about legalization of marijuana since 1973. In 1998, 28% believed that marijuana should be made legal, which compared to the peak of 30% in 1978. College freshmen have been surveyed by NORC since 1968. In 1998, 32.4% of those surveyed

agreed strongly or somewhat that marijuana should be legalized, down from a peak of 52.9% in 1977 and up from a low of 16.7% in 1989. Of 1998 high school seniors --

- 27.9% felt using marijuana should be legal, compared to the peak of 32.9% feeling that way in 1978 and a low of 14.9% in 1986
- 65.3% reported worrying often or sometimes about drug abuse, up from 65.5% in 1978 and down from 82.6% in 1990.

Source: *The Gallup Report*, National Opinion Research Center, and the **BJS Sourcebook of Criminal Justice Statistics, 1998**.

Neighborhood crime

In May 1999 a joint effort between the Office of Community Policing Services and the Bureau of Justice Statistics published a report on criminal victimization and citizen perception of 12 cities across the United States. These cities were Chicago, IL; Kansas City, MO; Knoxville, TN; Los Angeles, CA; Madison, WI; New York, NY; San Diego, CA; Savannah, GA; Spokane, WA; Springfield, MA; Tucson, AZ; and Washington, DC. Residents of these 12 cities were asked various questions about community attitudes, citizen actions to prevent neighborhood crime, attitudes toward the police and community policing.

- Residents who said they were aware of serious crimes in their neighborhood were asked to identify the types of serious crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood over the past 12 months. Of all residents who identified serious crimes, people openly selling drugs (16%) and people openly using drugs (14%) were among the types of crimes which had occurred in their neighborhood.
- Residents were also asked about various activities which may have been present in their neighborhood. They frequently said that illegal public drinking/or drug use (29%) and public drug sales (24%) were among the activities that existed in their neighborhood.
- Residents who identified a neighborhood condition or activity were asked if any of these condition or activities made them feel less safe in their neighborhood, and if so, which one impacted their feeling of safety the most. Between 17% and 36% of all the residents in each city said the conditions or activities made them feel less safe. Across the cities, public drinking/drug use (15%) and drug sales (17%) were among the conditions that affected residents' sense of safety.

Source: BJS/COPS, ***Criminal Victimization and Perceptions of Community Safety in 12 Cities, 1998***, NCJ 173940, May 1999.

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Bureau of Justice Statistics

Victim's perception of the use of alcohol
and drugs by the violent offender

	Percent of victims of violent crime
Alcohol only	19.7
Alcohol and drugs	4.7
Alcohol or drugs	1.3
Drugs only	5.1
No drugs or alcohol	38.7
Don't know	30.4

Source: Alcohol and Crime, NCJ 168632, April 1998.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Total estimated drug law violation
arrests in the United States, 1980-98

1980	580,900
1981	559,900
1982	676,000
1983	661,400
1984	708,400
1985	811,400
1986	824,100
1987	937,400
1988	1,155,200
1989	1,361,700
1990	1,089,500
1991	1,010,000
1992	1,066,400
1993	1,126,300
1994	1,351,400
1995	1,476,100
1996	1,506,200
1997	1,583,600
1998	1,559,100

Source: Crime in the United States,
annual, Uniform Crime Reports

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Number of arrest, by type of drug law violations, 1982-98

	Sale/manufacture	Possession
1982	135,200	540,800
1983	145,500	515,900
1984	155,800	552,600
1985	194,700	616,700
1986	206,000	618,100
1987	243,700	693,700
1988	311,900	843,300
1989	435,700	926,000
1990	348,600	740,900
1991	333,300	676,700
1992	341,200	725,200
1993	337,900	788,400
1994	364,900	986,500
1995	369,000	1,107,100
1996	376,600	1,129,700
1997	324,600	1,259,000
1998	330,500	1,228,600

Source: Crime in the United States, annual,
Uniform Crime Reports

FBI, Uniform Crime Reports

Arrests for drug abuse violations
by age group, 1970-98

Number of arrests for
drug abuse violations

	ADULT	JUVENILE
1970	322,300	93,300
1971	383,900	108,100
1972	407,300	120,100
1973	463,600	165,300
1974	474,900	167,200
1975	456,000	145,400
1976	464,100	145,400
1977	493,300	149,400
1978	480,000	148,700
1979	435,600	123,000
1980	471,200	109,700
1981	468,100	91,800
1982	584,900	91,200
1983	583,500	77,900
1984	623,700	84,700
1985	718,600	92,800
1986	742,700	81,400
1987	849,500	87,900
1988	1,050,600	104,600
1989	1,247,800	113,900
1990	1,008,300	81,200
1991	931,900	78,100
1992	980,700	85,700
1993	1,017,800	108,500
1994	1,192,800	158,600
1995	1,285,700	190,400
1996	1,294,800	211,500
1997	1,363,500	220,100
1998	1,353,300	205,800

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Number of arrests, by drug type, 1982-98

	Total numbers of arrests			
	Heroin/cocaine	Marijuana	Synthetic drugs	Other
1982	87,900	486,700	27,000	81,100
1983	152,100	403,500	19,800	86,000
1984	184,200	418,000	21,300	85,000
1985	243,400	446,300	24,300	97,400
1986	337,900	362,600	24,700	107,100
1987	431,200	375,000	28,100	112,500
1988	600,700	392,800	34,700	127,100
1989	735,300	394,900	27,200	204,300
1990	588,300	326,900	21,800	152,500
1991	555,500	282,800	20,200	141,400
1992	565,200	341,200	21,300	138,600
1993	563,200	382,900	22,500	157,700
1994	635,200	486,500	27,000	216,200
1995	620,000	590,400	29,500	236,200
1996	602,500	647,700	30,100	241,000
1997	565,300	695,200	41,200	283,500
1998	570,600	682,900	45,200	260,400

Source: Crime in the United States, annual,
Uniform Crime Reports

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Defendants in cases concluded in U.S. district court

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order*
1980	2,871	13,544	7,119	15,638
1981	3,022	13,851	8,077	15,887
1982	3,111	15,340	8,987	15,301
1983	2,737	16,384	9,774	16,963
1984	2,814	15,969	11,361	18,380
1985	2,871	16,250	12,984	19,009
1986	2,818	17,286	14,746	19,202
1987	2,850	17,175	16,443	18,153
1988	2,697	16,261	16,710	18,524
1989	2,805	16,188	19,750	18,916
1990	2,857	16,128	20,035	19,684
1991	3,124	15,749	21,203	20,115
1992	3,601	16,876	22,728	19,910
1993	3,581	17,440	24,127	19,484
1994	3,367	16,545	21,854	19,907
1995	3,041	15,777	19,569	18,964
1996	3,091	16,149	21,718	20,440
1997	3,482	17,521	23,528	20,361
1998	3,470	17,165	25,500	23,530

Source: Compendium of Federal Justice Statistics, annual
and Federal Criminal Case Processing, 1998 with trends 1982-98

Note: Includes all cases handled by U.S. district
court judges and Class A misdemeanors handled by
U.S. magistrates. Beginning with 1994, the data reported
are based on the Federal fiscal year beginning October 1;
prior years' data are based on the calendar year.

*Public Order offenses include weapons offenses.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Number of persons in custody of State correctional authorities
by most serious offense, 1980-96

	Violent	Property	Drug	Public order
1980	173,300	89,300	19,000	12,400
1981	193,300	100,500	21,700	14,600
1982	215,300	114,400	25,300	17,800
1983	214,600	127,100	26,600	24,400
1984	227,300	133,100	31,700	21,900
1985	246,200	140,100	38,900	23,000
1986	258,600	150,200	45,400	28,800
1987	271,300	155,500	57,900	31,300
1988	282,700	161,600	79,100	35,000
1989	293,900	172,700	120,100	39,500
1990	313,600	173,700	148,600	45,500
1991	339,500	180,700	155,200	49,500
1992	370,300	182,400	172,300	51,100
1993	395,700	191,600	183,200	53,800
1994	429,100	209,800	202,600	59,000
1995	464,500	230,300	225,000	65,500
1996	487,900	236,500	234,100	70,300

Source: Correctional Populations in the United States, 1996,
table 1.11

Violent offenses include murder, nonnegligent and non-negligent manslaughter, rape, sexual, assault, robbery, assault, extortion, intimidation, criminal endangerment, and other violent offenses.

Property offenses include burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, fraud, possession and selling of stolen property, destruction of property, trespassing, vandalism, criminal tampering, and other property offenses.

Drug offenses include possession, manufacturing, trafficking, and other drug offenses.

Public-order offenses include weapons, drunk driving, escape/flight to avoid prosecution, court offenses, obstruction, commercialized vice, morals and decency charges, liquor law violations, and other public-order offenses.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Cocaine use among high school seniors peaked in 1985

Year	Percent of high school seniors who used cocaine within the last:	
	12 months	30 days
1984	11.6	5.8
1985	13.1	6.7
1986	12.7	6.2
1987	10.3	4.3
1988	7.9	3.4
1989	6.5	2.8
1990	5.3	1.9
1991	3.5	1.4
1992	3.1	1.3
1993	3.3	1.3
1994	3.6	1.5
1995	4.0	1.8
1996	4.9	2.0
1997	5.5	2.3
1998	5.7	2.4
1999	6.2	2.6

Source: University of Michigan,
The Monitoring the Future Study,
December 1999, press released.

*Including the last 30 days.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Percent of high school seniors who think people
risk harming themselves with drug use, 1984-99

Year	Marijuana	Cocaine	LSD	Heroin
1984	66.9	78.8	83.8	87.2
1985	70.4	79.0	82.9	86.0
1986	71.3	82.2	82.6	87.1
1987	73.5	88.5	83.8	88.7
1988	77.0	89.2	84.2	88.8
1989	77.5	90.2	84.3	89.5
1990	77.8	91.1	84.5	90.2
1991	78.6	90.4	84.3	89.6
1992	76.5	90.2	81.8	89.2
1993	72.5	90.1	79.4	88.3
1994	65.0	89.3	79.1	88.0
1995	60.8	87.9	78.1	87.2
1996	59.9	88.3	77.8	89.5
1997	58.1	87.1	76.6	88.9
1998	58.5	86.3	76.5	89.1
1999	57.4	85.8	76.1	89.9

Source: The Monitoring the Future Study,
the University of Michigan, December 1999.

Bureau of Justice Statistics

Total number of emergency department
drug episodes, 1987-98

Year	
1987	396,414
1988	403,578
1989	425,904
1990	371,208
1991	393,968
1992	433,493
1993	460,910
1994	518,521
1995	513,633
1996	514,347
1997	527,058
1998	542,544

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
Administration Drug Abuse Warning Network (DAWN) 1998.